

Weymouth Massachusetts

Dec. 29th / 63

My dear friend

I have deferred
writing from time to time
hoping that I should be
able to give you by so
doing, a better account of
myself as well as a clearer
view of the "Situations" here
but ^{the} I can give a good report
of myself. I have as yet seen
too little of the outside
world to be able to say much
of it - but before speaking
of myself or my surroundings

Ms. A. 7. 3. 122

I must tell you how gratefully
I received your kind letter
at Liverpool which I intended
to acknowledge from "on board"
the Queenstown. Alas long before
I reached that place I was
too miserable for any such effort
& I never recovered until I was
on shore at New York - the
passage was safe & uneventful -
but you may judge of
my condition when I tell you
that I ~~was~~ ^{hardly} found a room du-
ring the whole voyage - I
unlucky raised my head from
my preternaturally hard pillow -
I think I know the history of
the word "Hardship" - I really
think the condition of the miserable
voyager by sea might be softened.
but let that pass - I was so weak

& exhausted by some 7 week & more
at home before the end of the
voyage that I am sure it was
very fortunate for me that
it was not prolonged - I don't
think I could have borne three
days more - I was really ill
as soon as I reached New York
& could give way to my dis-
position to guilt - to call it
by no worse name - I have
been only out of my room here
for a few days since my
arrival - Those few days
I passed with my friend Mrs
Percival in Boston - You have
heard I doubt not the story
of the sorrows & sacrifices of
this family - The only remaining
my son - one singularly gifted -

& beloved - was one of the
first Martyrs in the Holy
Cause - If you could read his
letters written at the beginning
of the Ship & before he was
connected with it - as well
as those inspired by the position
he afterwards held in the Ar-
my - you would see how our
young men looked on the
matter - ~~of~~ - how distinctly they
saw the sacrifice for themselves
& the Salvation for their country.
Mrs Patnam lost not only her
son but her husband - whose
^{health} ~~strength~~ ^{before-fall} gave way during the
long anxiety preceding the
action in which Willie fell
& who survived his son only a
few weeks. - She has suffered
greatly - but she is a true
Christian - & bears her great grief

only
as ² Such natures can. Her
year consolation & occupation
is the cause for which she
has given so much. She is sister
of Lowell the poet. He has
just written some beautiful
lines in memory of young
Arthur. I will send you
if they are not published in
the Standard, which usually
copies the good things of the
Atlantic Monthly.

"I speak of one & think of three"
Lowell says in the last Standard
~~was~~ alluding to young Putnam
& James Lowell - both his nephews,
& both dead in the war.
I could hardly take a step
in Boston or look in the face

of an old friend with one
feeling that I was in the
presence of sorrow not to be
told. & of devotion which imparted
a strange strength of consolation.
The family ~~is~~ has lost
two sons - Henry Bowditch has
lost his eldest son - his hope
& pride - he ^{has been} ~~is~~ you know
all these years on the Mass
A. S. S. Board & is one of our oldest
friends - I would find me
to even allude to the touching
histories I heard - They were
wonderfully alike - The New Eng-
land boys, have not died ignorant-
ly or uselessly - They knew
well how it is that the blood
of the Martyrs is the seed of
the church - They were not

strong in their knowledge
I see that Mrs Gaskell has
published an article about ^{Poles} ~~her~~
in Mc Millan's Magazine - I am
sorry the notes are exactly in their
style ~~and~~ I wish she had confined
herself more strictly to the ^{young}
man's personal character &
conduct & the importance of the
cause for which he felt - this was
no exceptional case - & it pains
my nerves to hear the wealth &
importance & worth of his family
dwelt on in such a way as I should
think would be trying for them
to read - There's were simply the
common circumstances of most
^{of a great many} of the young officers who were
to the sons from our great cities
all that goes sans due why
turn the attention from a great
cause & a great action by talks
about wealth & houses & dining
rooms & bedrooms - Mrs Waterstones

verses added, contain the whole
matter. — I am told Mrs Stuart
suffers more as time goes on — as
I should suppose she would. —
I will keep my criticism of Mrs Jackson
to yourself — for I am fond of Mrs J.
& I don't say other people won't
feel as I do. — The article may
do — more good — than one I should
have taken better.

I went ^{into} the great Sanitary Fair
all Boston was collected there
accordingly as they could gain
admittance — It was an Anti
Slavery Fair to all intents & pur
poses — people could hardly
take money as far as it
was bought — the crowd alone
made it difficult to transact
business — & at the end of five
days they gave \$100,000 into
the hands of the Treasurer of
the S. C. F. & will have 50,000 more